



4th African Conference on Debt and Development (AFCoDD IV)
Africa's Debt Crisis: Pan-African Feminist Perspectives and Alternatives
28th – 30th August 2024
Maputo, Mozambique

African Conference on Debt and Development

Welcoming

Day 0 - 27th August 2023

Opa Kapijimpanga Lecture | Debt Palaver

Zambezi Room

05.00pm - 7.00pm

A powerful film that explores the devastating impact of public debt on a nation's citizens and its governance. This trailer offers a glimpse into the intense drama and personal struggles faced by those caught in the web of economic turmoil. This intriguing movie takes you to Nigeria, where economic mismanagement and government neglect have left the populace grappling with severe hardships. The movie is a classic exemplification of how ordinary Africans are struggling under the weight of public debt and inadequate public services.

Moderator: Catherine Mithia

Respondent

Ivy Gurure - AFRODAD

Lancelot Imaseun - Debt Palaver

Oxfam (TBC)

African Conference on Debt and Development

Pillar 1 - Political Dialogue

Day 1 - 28th August 2023

Rovuma - Main Conference Hall

Arrival and Registration

08.00am - 09.00am

Opening Session

Rovuma - Main Conference Hall

09.00am - 12.30pm

Welcoming Remarks

Official Opening Ceremony

Welcoming Remarks from Mozambique Government Representatives

Press Conference

Group Photo

Lunch Break

12.30pm - 2.00pm

Keynote Address – Framing Africa's Debt Challenge from a Feminist Lens

2.00pm - 3.30pm

The keynote address for AFCoDD IV will frame Africa's debt challenge from a feminist lens and will focus on three elements. First, the keynote will politicise the feminist lens to underscore the importance of a political conscientisation of having a feminist lens when analysing Africa's debt challenge to have alternative proposals as solutions. Second, the keynote will emphasise what exactly a feminist lens means from a policy, power, production, and productive point of view to Africa's debt challenge. And how a lack of this perspective undermines holistic solutions and marginalises/ignores contributions to economy and society by women and girls. Third, the keynote will integrate feminist into the mainstream analysis of Africa's debt challenge and in developing solutions towards this challenge.

Moderator: Anne-Marie Borges

Speakers: Dinah Musindarwezo - Womankind

Respondent: Memory Kachambwa - FEMNE

Reine Baimey - Womin

Crystal Simeoni - NAWI

Break

3.30pm - 4.00pm

Session 1 - Women in Power: Power, Politics, and Resources

4.00pm - 5.30pm

This session will look at how women in power across all sectors remains critical to unlocking the ceilings and addressing asymmetries that undermine policies and interventions. Specifically, this session will explore the current emerging data of women in power across Africa in Parliament and Government, for example, and question the need to look beyond the numbers, and look instead at the distribution of the numbers.

The objective behind this session is to interrogate the political power dimensions at play in how resources are defined, generated and distributed in a way that can advance Africa's economies with feminist/gender lens behind it.

Moderator Anne-Marie Borges

Panellists

Hon Khanyisile Tshabalala-Litchfield - African Parliamentary Network on IFFs and Tax (APNIFFT)

Edna Kanguya - Parliament of Zambia

Mame Diarra Ndiaye Sobel - Stop the Bleeding Campaign Secretariat

Quitéria Guirengane - Women's Observatory Mozambique (TBC)

African Conference on Debt and Development

Pillar 2 - Research and Ideation

Day 2 - 29th August 2023

Arrival and Registration

08:30am - 09:00am

Break-out sessions - 09.00am - 10.30am

Session 1 - Navigating Resource Backed Loans (RBLs) and Odious Debts: The case of South Sudan's Odious Debt | PALU & GFI

This session will discuss South Sudan's experience with the view to understand and explore the practicality, risks, challenges and key lessons to be learned. Lessons and best practices on debt litigation will be drawn from precedents already set. In addition to sparking the interests of stakeholders to utilise litigation as a strategy for reforming debt legal and institutional frameworks, the session will explore the legal reforms that are required to ensure RBLs are constitutional and they benefit citizens. Given that RBLs are part of a development finance, the session will conclude by weaving RBLs into the broader development finance discourse

Moderator Rangarirai Chikova - PALU**Speakers** Afshin Nazir - AFRODAD
June Cynthia Okelo - PALU
Gabriel Manguela - CDD
Edith Nyabicha - GFI
Tashinga Zamba - ZIMCODD

Venue - Zambezi 1

Session 2 - Pan-African Feminist and Youth Perspectives and alternatives to Africa's Debt Crisis | Action Aid & YTJN

This side event will provide a vital platform for discussing and promoting young women-led feminist perspectives and alternatives to Africa's debt crisis. By centering young feminist voices and wellbeing economies, the session aims to contribute to a more equitable and just economic future for Africa.

Moderator Wangari Kinoti - Women's Rights
and Feminist Alternatives Global Lead, ActionAid
Crystal Simeoni - Director of the Afrifem**Speakers** Seloleka Molamodi - Young Urban Women
Zaithwa Mulani - Young Urban Women
Jon Kafuko - Youth For Tax Justice Network (YTJN)
Lurit Yugusu - FEMNET's AFMA Alumni
Rumbidzayi Makoni - ActionAid Global Secretariat

Venue - Zambezi 2

Session 3 - Women Debt Barometer | Women's Observatory

Pending

Moderator Sérgio Wacela Vilanculo, Womin (TBC)**Speakers** TBC
TBC
TBC
TBC

Venue - Zambezi 3

Session 4 - Feminist Approaches in Transforming the Global Financial Architecture - Lessons from Tax and Trade | TJNA

This session unpacks feminist experiences in pushing for the transformation of the international tax and trade regime and the lessons that can be picked from these experiences and utilised in the transforming the global debt architecture and particularly pushing for a UN international debt framework.

1. Unpacking the political economy of trade, tax and debt management including institutions such as the WTO, the G20, the OECD and multilateral lenders, highlighting the imbalance of power in the decision making processes, the dispute resolution processes, and the role played by the private sector
2. Highlighting African feminist interests in each of these regimes and the status of their success
3. Highlighting the next steps in aligning the international debt framework with African feminist principles and human rights

Moderator Ishmael Zulu - TJNA**Speakers** Dr. Lyla Latif - University of Nairobi, Committee on Fiscal Studies
Grace Namugambe - FEMNET
Chenai Mukumba - TJNA

Venue - Rovuma

Break

10.30am - 11.00am

Break-out sessions - 11.00am - 12.30pm

Session 5 - Public Debt and Women's Right: From A Feminist Perspective and Praxis | FES-AU

While IMF debt relief programs can provide significant benefits by reducing overall debt burdens and potentially freeing up resources for social spending, however, the associated austerity measures and conditionalities can adversely affect women. The impact largely depends on how governments implement these programs and whether they prioritize protecting and enhancing social services that support women and address gender inequalities. Applying a feminist perspective to debt discussions is crucial for understanding both the macroeconomic and microeconomic dimensions of gender inequalities, which are influenced and perpetuated by historical, social, and political processes. Feminist economists have long critiqued the detachment of economic policies from their complex social contexts. Debt contracts are typically viewed as impersonal, rational agreements between self-interested parties. However, this perspective overlooks the historical, social, political, and economic contexts that shape these contracts and the distributive choices they entail among different social groups.

Moderator Brenda Campos**Speakers** Selina - ATUNET Network
Grace Namugambe - FEMNET
Diana Moraa Mochoge - AFRODAD

Venue - Zambezi 3

Session 6 - Gendered effects of Austerity Measures in Budgeting: The case of Kenya and Lessons for Other Countries | The Institute of Public Finance

Austerity measures are employed by government as a means of fiscal consolidation, particularly in reducing public spending and raising taxes to stabilize the economy. The session will scrutinize the gender impact that austerity measures in budgeting cause. This will be analysed along the identification of the critical link that exists between austerity measures and public debt. The session will leverage on Kenya's current context, analysing key drivers that have created the need for austerity measures, whereby, the government has been moved to cut down on expenditure for critical services that impact women and girls, such as healthcare, education and social protection. Drawing on Kenya's experience, the session will discuss the consequences of austerity measures and the role of youth, women and Civil Society Organizations in fiscal decisions. The session will explore the strategies and policy recommendations that can be adopted to mitigate the adverse effects of austerity measures on women.

Moderator James Muraguri - IPF**Speakers** Chenai Mukumba - TJNA
Joshua Muteti - TI Kenya
Samantha Kanoyangwa - AfronomicsLaw/AfsDJN

Venue - Zambezi 2

Session 7 - An African Alternate Perspective for Multilateralism: Enhancing the African Continental Free Trade Area as a Response to Global Challenges | ADIN/SEATINI

The side event will discuss the feasibility of actions through three pathways: Rethinking the African perspective for multilateralism; Enhancing Continental self-determination; and Partnering differently. The debate will be conducted with a view to clarifying what the African perspective should be for a new and better Multilateralism. Amidst the numerous global challenges, exploring the possible pathways out of crisis for Africa, capitalizing on the AICTA and other AU initiatives.

Moderator Martin Tsounkeu - ADIN**Speakers** Jane Nalunga - SEATINI
Florence Nazare - AUDA-NEPAD
Nana Osei Bonsu - Pan African Agribusiness Apex Chamber
Vitalice Meja - RoA Africa Network
Stean Mpolo - Monetary Expert, Cameroon

Venue - Zambezi 1

Session 8 - The G20 Common Framework and the Development Finance Landscape in Africa: Impact on the Realisation of Feminist Aspirations to Public Debt Management in Africa | AFRODAD

The Common Framework for debt treatment is criticized for lacking true commonality, as it involves diverse creditor groups with conflicting objectives and excludes many developing countries with unsustainable debt. The session aims to facilitate peer-to-peer learning from countries that have joined the G-20 Common Framework and explore alternative policy solutions for African debt restructuring, especially in light of the current debt crisis and the need to implement the UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt.

Moderator Dr. Yungong Theophilus Jong, AFRODAD

Speakers Lee Everts - UNECA
Dr Emmanuel Owusu-Sekyere - ACET
Naledi Joyi- Gender Expert - CSVR
Kamal Ramburuth - EIJ
Isaac Mwaipopo - CTPD

Venue - Romuva

Lunch Break

12.30pm - 2.00pm

Breakout sessions 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Session 9 - The Legal Landscape on Public Debt Management in Africa and its Implications on Domestic Resource Mobilisation

African countries face common legal challenges in public debt management, including improper contraction, lack of transparency, and ambiguous frameworks. These issues have led to loss of public trust and reduced fiscal space for essential services. The session aims to explore legal aspects of debt, identify gaps in existing frameworks, and discuss how legal reforms can enhance revenue mobilization and promote prudent debt management across Africa.

Moderator Afshin Nazir, AFRODAD

Speakers Mary Ongore - International Lawyers Project
Prof. Attiya Waris - United Nations Independent Expert on Foreign Debt
Rangarirai Chikova - Pan African Lawyers Union

Venue - Zambezi 1

Session 10 - Combating Predatory Lending and Promoting Austerity-Free Debt Restructuring in Africa | Afronomicslaw/AFSDJN

The African borrowing landscape has witnessed a marked increase in private creditor involvement in recent years. This shift has brought concerns about predatory lending practices to the forefront. Such practices often involve high interest rates and unfavourable terms, trapping countries in cycles of debt that are difficult to escape. Concurrently, many African countries, burdened by high debt levels, are often subjected to austerity measures as part of debt restructuring processes. Typically, these measures involve substantial cuts in public spending, adversely affecting social services and impeding economic growth. This session presents the work done by early-career legal researchers engaging in analytical and critical discussion on predatory lending and austerity-free debt restructuring in Africa.

Moderator Samantha Kanoyangwa - AfronomicsLaw/A

Speakers Miracle Mudeyi
Tonny Oromooye
Chioma Echebiri

Venue - Zambezi 2

Session 11 - Stop The Bleeding Citizen Forum on Africa's Debt Crisis and Its Impact on Communities | STB & PSAM

This session will address the impact of the African debt crisis on citizens, with a particular focus on grassroots communities where poverty especially affects women and young people. The hypothesis is based on the premise that eliminating debt burdens, combined with the implementation of endogenous resource mobilization mechanism, will enable sustainable development of the continent of economic and social levels

Moderator Mukasiri Sibanda - Stop the Bleeding Camp

Speakers Jason Braganza - AFRODAD
NAWI- TBC
FEMNET- TBC
TJNA- TBC
Diana Gichengo - OKOA Uchumi
Leo Atakpu - ANEEJ

Venue - Zambezi 3

Session 12 - Navigating Financialisation, Debt, And Illicit Flows Through a Pan-African Feminist Lens | FEMNET

This session explores feminist and gendered perspectives on financialization in African economies, examining its impacts on women and the development of gendered subjectivities. It analyzes the current financial crisis and austerity policies as outcomes of financialization, which often disadvantage women and girls. The discussion will evaluate policy responses to the financial crisis, particularly highlighting the gendered impacts of stimulus and recovery measures. Adopting a Pan-African feminist approach is deemed crucial for advancing inclusive development agendas that empower women, promote economic resilience, and mitigate the negative effects of global financial dynamics on African societies.

Moderator Grace Namugambe – FEMNET

Speakers Dr. Jamela Hoveni - Institute for Economic Justice
Sonia Phalatse – University of Wits
Ucizi Ngulube - TaxED Alliance/Action Aid

Venue - Rovuma

Break

3.30pm - 4.00pm

Breakout sessions 4.00pm - 5.30pm

Session 13 - Rethinking Sovereign Debt Through a Human Rights Lens: Lessons from Mozambique| Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD)

Debt has traditionally been seen as a public finance issue. Missing from the mainstream approaches on public debt is its impacts on the country's population. This section discusses the link between public debt and human rights, focusing on the impact of debt on the realization of economic, social, and cultural rights and the right to development. Drawing lessons from the debt management process in Mozambique, this section will explore to what extent a rights-based approach to debt can enable greater transparency and accountability and democratize decision-making on debt-related issues. The section will also promote a reflection on the shortcomings of current creditor-driven responses to the debt crisis and propose a rights-based approach to debt sustainability.TBC

Moderator TBC

Speakers TBC
TBC
TBC
TBC

Venue - Rovuma

Session 14 - Feminist Insights into Zambia's Debt Restructuring Challenges | Zambia CSO Debt Alliance

Zambia's debt restructuring process has protracted for more than three-years. The delay in finalizing this process has had several socio-economic challenges. Therefore, this session will explore the unique challenges faced during Zambia's debt restructuring process from a feminist perspective. It will highlight how the debt crisis disproportionately impacts women and marginalized groups, emphasizing the need for gender-sensitive approaches in financial decision-making. Participants will discuss feminist alternatives and solutions to the debt crisis, drawing on Pan-African experiences and advocating for policies that promote gender equality, social justice, and economic resilience. The session aims to amplify feminist voices and ensure that debt restructuring efforts are inclusive and equitable.

Moderator Isaac Mwaipopo, CTPD

Speakers Peter Mumba – Zambia Debt Alliance

Fr. Alex Muyebe – Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR)

Edna Zgambo Kanguya – Parliamentary Budget Office, National Assembly of Zambia

Venue - Zambezi 1

Session 15 - Campaigns & Movement Building for Debt Advocacy: Engaging citizens for Sustainable Change Through a Feminist Lens | Okoa Uchumi

This session will explore how feminist principles can be integrated into campaigns and movement-building efforts to address the debt crisis thus contributing to the ongoing discourse on Africa's emancipation and the structural transformation of its economies. It will bring together regional partners and coalitions to compare notes and share lessons on building and sustaining citizen movements demanding transparency and accountability in management of public resources. It will also seek to frame the debt crisis not just as an economic issue but as a political struggle for the autonomy and dignity of African women and communities. Africa's unique cultural, social, and economic landscapes, including the diverse realities of African women and how these inform feminist approaches will be discussed. Through the session, the need for sustained national civic movements that transcend the immediate debt crisis will be addressed and discussed with the goal to build African Feminist discourses.

Moderator Angela Wangechi - Okoa Uchumi

Speakers Crystal Simeoni - NAWI (TBC)

Joshua Muteti - TI-Kenya

Ohiocheoya Omiunu - AfronomicLaw

Vyrone Ochola - TISA

Venue - Zambezi 2

Session 16 - Dialogue on Debt, Extractivism and Gender Inequality in Africa | ZIMCODD & Fight Inequality

The "debt trap" notion in Africa refers to the predicament where nations become burdened with excessive debts and cannot fulfill their repayment obligations, leading to a cycle of borrowing and mounting debt. This economic model, Extractivism, centered on extracting natural resources for export, is prevalent in several African countries. Furthermore, both debt traps and extractive policies have been linked to exacerbating gender inequality in Africa. Taking this into consideration, ZIMCODD and Fight Inequality Alliance Zimbabwe plan to hold a side session on linking debt, Extractivism, and gender equality in Africa during the 4th African Conference on Debt and Development in Maputo, Mozambique.

Moderator TBC

Speakers Peter Mumba -Zambia debt alliance

Lurit Yugosoku -FEMNET

Hebron Mwakagenda-Tanzania coalition on debt and development

Venue - Zambezi 3

African Conference on Debt and Development

Pillar 1 - Political Dialogue

Day 3 - 30th August 2023

Rovuma - Main Conference Hall

Arrival and Registration

08:00am - 09:00am

Session 1 | National Debt Meetings – Reflections, Emerging issues, and Building a Common Approach towards Africa Rule Maker not Rule Taker

09.00am - 10.30am

This session will focus on the emerging issues from a series of national debt meetings held prior to AfCoDD IV. The objective is to distil common themes and messages from national level to feed into a common CSO approach and position on addressing Africa's debt burden.

Moderator: Jason R. Braganza, AFRODAD

Speakers Prof. Adriano Nuvunga-CDD Mozambique Patrick Tumwebaze-UDN, Uganda

Diana Gichengo- TISA, Kenya Abdulrahman Ali-HESPI, Ethiopia

Martin Tsounkeu-ADIN, Cameroon Hebron Mwakagenda-TCDD, Tanzania

Ameni Ben Sik Ali- OTE, Tunisia Bertha Phiri-MEJN-Malawi

Isaac Mwaipopo-CTPD, Zambia

Break

10.30am - 10.45am

Session 2 - Bringing It All Together – How Does a Feminist Lens Look Like Moving Forward: Food for Thought

10.45am - 11.45am

Moderator Anne-Marie Borge

Panellists Carmeliza Rosário - Womin

Wangari Kinoti - ActionAid

Crystal Simeoni - NAWI

Nicole Maloba - FEMNET

Break

11.45am - 12.00pm

Session 3 - Collective Action – Linking the People, Politics, Power, and Processes

12.00pm - 12.30pm

Moderator Jason R. Braganza - AFRODAD

Panellists Stefano Prato – International Global Processes, Financing for Development

Mame Diarra Ndiaye Sobel – The Stop the Bleeding Campaign

Hon Khanyisile Tshabalala-Litchfield – Role of Parliamentarians

Emilia Reyes – International Dimensions of the Feminist Approach

Closing Session

12.30pm - 01.00pm

Adriano Nuvunga, CDD

Crystal Simeoni, Nawi AfriFem Collective

Tinenenji Banda, AFRODAD
